Review the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India

1097. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:
SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation from PHD Chambers of Commerce and Industry for review of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATION (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) No such representation has come to notice.

(b) and (c) In view of reply to part (a) above, question does not arise.

Pending Applications in Passport Offices

1098. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of passport applications pending with Government for issue of passports in the country, particulary from Gujarat as on date; and

(b) the steps taken to clear the pending applications?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) The number of passport applications pending with Government for issue of passports in the country as on 19.07.1996 is 2,94,445 while the number of passport applications pending from Gujarat (Regional Passport Office, Ahmedabad) as on 19.07.1996 is 27,431.

(b) Government have and shall continue to take steps to streamline the working of Passport Offices for expeditious issue of passports, such as augmentation of staff strength, upgradation of office facilities including computerisation, review of systems and procedures in order to reduce delays, regular inspection of Passport Offices and follow-up action. As regards the Regional Passport Office, Ahmedabd, a new Passport Officer with proven ability has recently been posted there with the specific task of clearing pending in that office. He has also been authorised to engaged 20 additional hands to help clear the backlog.

Indo-Bangladesh Talks on Release of Ganga Water

1099. SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the areas of dispute between Bangladesh and India over the release of Ganga water at Farakka;

(b) whether there is any proposal to initiate negotiations with a fresh set of proposals in the matter; and

(c) whether, while initiating such discussions, Government will ensure the interests of downstream riparian States such as West Bengal?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) The area of disagreement between India and Bangladesh over release of Ganga Water at Farakka concerns the sharing of inflows and there augmentation during lean season.

(b) The issue of water sharing was raised during the recent visit of Foreign Secretary to Dhaka in July, 1996 and the Government of Bangla Desh has indicated that they would like to have an early resolution of the issue. The Government is willing to hold discussions with the Bangladesh Government on this issue.

(c) Interests of States are always kept in view when negotiating with the country's neighbours.

रायगढ़ में तार सुविधाएं

1100. श्री दिलीप सिंह जूदेव: क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) नवंबर, 1995 तक रायगढ़ जिले के किन-किन तार घरों और डाक घरों में प्रेषण हेतु 24 घंटों के अन्दर तार पहुंचा दिये जाने की व्यवस्था है;

(ख) जनवरी, 1994 से नवंबर, 1995 तक प्रतिमाह कितने तार डाक के माध्यम से किन-किन डाकघरों में भेजे गए और कितने तार सीधे संचार लाइनों के माध्यम से भेजे गये;